Amendments to the Specification

Please replace the paragraph bridging between pages 5 and 6 with the following:

"As can be seen in the image 12 on printed document 10 of Figure 1, the coincident dots of C M Y at 14 will appear as the subtractive combination of the colors if the inks are transparent, not the desired color. With opaque inks, the dot will appear as the last color applied. In areas in which there are equal amounts of the colors this problem becomes very noticeable, especially in light areas. For example, the coincident dot pattern was made to occur by using the following inputs to a halftoning algorithm for a constant region: 1% C; 1% M; and 1% Y."

On page 6, line 13, please replace the paragraph with the following:

"A flowchart of one embodiment of the invention using random numbers is shown in Figure 3. At 30 a first set of seed values ~~are~~ is generated. These seed values would typically be generated from a random number or noise generator. In the case of pseudo-random noise, the numbers ~~may~~ would be manipulated to achieve other effects, as discussed above in the monochrome printing application."

On page 8, line 4, please replace the paragraph with the following:

"This invention could also be used in conjunction with error diffusion systems that work with other output devices, such as CRTs or LCDs, having a lower number of bits of signal precision than the number of bits used to represent the image. These systems use error diffusion to reduce the quantization error in going from the higher precision of the input image representation to the lower precision of the output display representation. ~~E~~, e.g., an LCD driven by a 4-bit deep frame buffer provides 16 output levels. Error diffusion can be used to convert an 8-bit image into 4 bits. This invention can be used to improve the startup behavior of error diffusion used in this kind of application, as well as in printing applications."

On page 11, line 5, please replace the Abstract with the following:

"A method for initializing a printing system using error diffusion is discussed. In application of the invention to color printing systems, the method initializes a first error buffer with a first set of seed values and then initializes at least one other error buffer with another set of seed values. The other set of seed values is negatively correlated with respect to the first set of seed values in the first error buffer. The method then uses the seed values in all the error buffers to start an error diffusion process. For monochrome systems, only one error buffer is initialized with random numbers."